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December 8, 2020

The Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Re: Comments on Proposal for Virtual Civil Jury Trials

Dear Judge Grant:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the New Jersey Supreme Court's proposal for virtual civil trials during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New Jersey Association of Justice commends the Supreme Court for its thoughtful proposal. The Association supports the Court's concept of virtual civil jury trials, but respectfully requests the Court consider implementation of the limited changes set forth below.

We continue to urge that virtual civil trials be made mandatory and be implemented on a statewide basis rather than through a pilot program. This will further the cause of justice by allowing more trials to proceed.

The Association has faith in the judiciary and trial counsel that both can meet the demands and accommodate their practice to make this novel form of jury trial successful until such time as we can all resume a normal way of life and a normal manner of trial practice physically in person, in court.

Additionally, NJAJ has become aware of a suggestion that real time transcription be added to the virtual trial process. This will allow jurors to more easily and closely follow the presentations by attorneys and witnesses during trials.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Respectfully yours,

Edward P. Capozzi, Esq.
President

Protecting People's Rights.